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Local historian to recount past

East Brimfield Dam 50th anniversary of construction to be observed by local towns, Corps on Nov. 6

CONCORD, Mass. – The towns of Holland, Brimfield and Sturbridge, Mass., the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, and several other groups will join together on Nov. 6, 2010 to observe the 50th anniversary of the completion of East Brimfield Dam in Fiskdale, Mass.

A formal ceremony will be held on Saturday, Nov. 6, 2010 at 1 p.m. at the dam located at 24 Riverview Ave., in Fiskdale, Mass. Local historian Larry Lowenthal will speak about the history of East Brimfield Dam and the former East Brimfield Village during the ceremony, and a plaque commemorating the 50th Anniversary will be unveiled.

The ceremony will be followed by tours of the dam and refreshments. Historical displays will interpret the East Brimfield Dam construction and the former East Brimfield Village. The public is invited to attend this free event. For more information call the East Brimfield Dam office at 508-347-3705.

East Brimfield Dam is situated on the Quinebaug River in Fiskdale, Mass. Construction of the dam began in 1958 in response to the Flood of 1955 and damages from Hurricanes Connie and Diane.

The dam was placed into operation in June 1960 at a cost of \$6,580,000 and as of September 2009, it has prevented \$109,144,000 in flood damages.

East Brimfield Dam is part of a network of six flood risk management dams in the Thames River Basin constructed and maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. East Brimfield Dam is a 520-foot-long, 55-foot-high earthen dam and holds back a lake covering 20 acres capable of storing 9.4 billion gallons of water.

The Corps regulates the flow of the Quinebaug River by raising or lowering two, 6.5-foot by 11-foot sluice gates in the gate house of East Brimfield Dam. The water flowing through this gate house drains an area of 67.5 square miles.

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